

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015**

Bill Number: H.344 Name of Bill: An act relating to the Needle Education, Exchange, and Disposal Task Force

Agency/Dept: State Police Author of Bill Review: Capt. Rick Hopkins

Date of Bill Review: 3-28-15 Related Bills and Key Players: N/A

Status of Bill: (check one)

☒ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body ☐ As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

☐ Support ☐ Oppose ☒ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

- 1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** This bill proposes to establish a task force to provide recommendations for designing and implementing a statewide needle education, exchange, and disposal program. The Task Force shall provide recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the design and implementation of a statewide needle education, exchange, and disposal program for used needles, syringes, and other sharps.
- 2. Is there a need for this bill?** The apparent issue is that there are several independent needle exchanges operating in different areas of the state but they are not unified programmatically and it is unclear what parts of the state are not covered.
- 3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** Little to no impact either financially or programmatically. Only "ask" of DPS is to provide task force member (Commissioner or designee). It is possible that outcomes from the work of the task force could have impact on DPS but none are anticipated at this point. It is more likely most impacts would be felt by VDH.
- 4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** As noted above this is a committee creation bill so direct impacts to other departments should be limited. It is anticipated that VDH would have some limited programmatic impact as the bill calls for them to provide technical support.
- 5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** (for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc) Public Health organizations (public and private) Hospitals and other healthcare providers, local law enforcement etc. It is anticipated most of these entities will have limited impact directly and will be in favor or neutral. Public and private health orgs/providers may have concerns about unfunded mandates to provide services as part of any statewide program.

**6. Other Stakeholders:**

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?** Health care providers, Public Health programs, public health advocates etc. Bill proposes to enhance programs that reduce infectious disease transmission.

**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?** None known

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** This is primarily a Health related bill so DPS may not see a need to advocate for this bill however there does not appear to be a downside for DPS.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** N/A

**9. Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?** N/A

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Laura Gray", is written over a faint rectangular stamp.

**Date:** 4/30/15